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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir. The Factory is attached to the Government Coir School.

" (b) Yes, Sir.

" (c) In the year 1949, the Joint Director of Industries and Commerce made a surprise inspection of the Coir Factory at Beypore and noticed several irregularities in the administration of the factory which resulted in shortages of stocks of coir and other losses to the Government. At the same time the audit report for the factory for the year 1950–51 and the special departmental audit conducted in July 1952 revealed further shortages and instances of irregularities. Three sets of charges were framed against the officer Sri Syed Mohammed who was in charge of the factory. The shortages and losses involved on account of the maladministration of the factory amounted to about Rs. 16,200. All the sets of charges framed against the officer were proved and the Government have ordered the removal of the officer from service from the date on which he was placed under suspension."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" What steps have the Government taken to realize the amount involved in the shortage? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Government examined whether a civil suit may be instituted against the officer to recover the amount; but it was found that even if we could get a decree, the amount could not be recovered. Therefore, the proposal to file a civil suit was dropped."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" After settlement of this affair, will the Government re-start the factory considering that the coir industry is one of the most important industries in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered while replying to a question two days back that Government do not consider it feasible to run a factory on a commercial basis."

Development of the Bombay-Cape Comorin road via Taliparamba as a National Highway road.

* 1270 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the construction of a bridge across the Kuppam river at mile 6/5-8 of Payyanur-Taliparamba section, Bombay Cape Comorin road, was given in contract to Messrs. Gannon-Dunkerly in early 1953 and whether it was cancelled subsequently;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) is in the affirmative, the reasons for the cancellation;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation with regard to the construction of the National Highway road *via* Taliparamba;

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon;

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(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the recommendations of the Chief Engineer (Highways) of the State on the possibility of developing the existing Bombay-Cape Comorin road *via* Taliparamba as a National Highway road; and

(*f*) if not, why not?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise.

" (*c*) Yes, Sir.

" (*d*) It has since been decided by the Government of India to have the alignment of the Bombay-Cape Comorin road via Taliparamba.

" (*e*) & (*f*) The communication is an administrative official document and cannot be published but it may be stated it contained information which would help to reach a final decision."

Route of the National Highway (Bombay-Cape Comorin) from Cannanore to Payyanur.

* 1271 *Q*.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the proposed route of the National Highway (Bombay-Cape Comorin) from Cannanore to Payyanur; and

(*b*) whether alternative proposals have been considered by Government in this behalf, and if so, what they are?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) The alignment of the Bombay-Cape Comorin road from Cannanore to Payyanur as finally fixed by the Government of India is through Taliparamba.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir. The Government of India after examining the alternative coastal route via Cherukunnu and Madayi finally decided in favour of the interior route referred to in the answer to clause (*a*) above."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the residents of Pazhayangadi passed a resolution at a public meeting that there are disputes about the route of this road and whether they requested Government to appoint an expert committee to decide this matter? If so, may I know whether Government have received that resolution and may I also know what steps they have taken on that resolution? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I cannot offhand tell the hon. Member from memory about the receipt of any resolution. But there was a lot of agitation on either side and all these things were placed before the Government of India and they have taken this decision."